Claims:

1. A method for setting a parameter for external operating units of a welding apparatus, wherein the welding parameters are selectable and settable using different operating elements and display elements provided on the welding apparatus, characterized in that a control program is invoked in the welding apparatus and the selected welding parameter for setting or adjustment is thereby selectively allocated to an external operating unit provided on an external component, such that said welding parameter is set or changed upon activation or adjustment of the external operating unit provided on the external component.

2. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the control program is invoked via an operating element provided on the welding apparatus and the welding parameter is allocated to the external operating unit provided on the external component by the renewed activation of an operating element provided on the welding apparatus.

3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that several welding parameters are allocated to several external operating units provided on one or

several external components.

4. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the allocations of the welding parameters to the external operating units of the external components provided in the welding apparatus are preferably stored by a control and/or evaluation device.

5. A method according to claim 4, characterized in that an evaluation of the signals received from the external operating units of the external components is effected by the control and/or evaluation device of the welding apparatus, and these signals are allocated to the respective welding parameters and changed accordingly.

6. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that any changes of the external operating units of the external component are transmitted to the welding apparatus via control lines, optical fibers, bus systems or by radio.